



**GENERAL THOMAS F. MEAGHER DIVISION
Spotsylvania Division No. 1**

January 2013 Highlights

*Completing 25 years of Friendship, Unity and Christian
Charity in the greater Fredericksburg area!*

*Happy New Year/Athbhliain faoi mhaise dhuit!
to you and your family*

The Division met as scheduled on January 15th with 19 brothers in attendance. Our Sentinel was excused. The Division now boasts 41 members including three clergymen and three active duty military members. Remember your **annual dues** should be paid within the next month.

At the beginning of the New Year it's appropriate that we acknowledge our appreciation for the 17 brothers initiated in 2012. We're very happy you decided to join the AOH and to become integral to the division's future. We see great potential in you and look forward to your assumption of leadership positions in the coming years. None of the Division officer positions are life-long incumbencies. My hope is that you will step up for nomination at every Division officer position.

Our division namesake, Thomas F. Meagher (pronounced `Maar_), was a patriot in the Ireland and in the USA. He was a member of the Irish Confederation, an independence movement established in 1847, considered by many to be the official organization of what became known as `Young Ireland_ movement. Young

Irelanders didn't support 'The Great Emancipator's (Daniel O'Connell) campaign to achieve Irish independence through the political process of repealing of the Act of Union. Meagher, an accomplished public speaker and Young Ireland's spokesman, became known as 'Meagher of the sword' for his bellicose speeches.

At a mass meeting in April 1848, Meagher presented a Tricolor flag that was later modified and adopted as the Irish national flag. When Meagher presented the Tricolor he referred to the French red, white, and blue tricolor that inspired the French Revolution and was adopted as the French national flag in 1790, saying:

'From Paris, the city of the tricolor and the barricade, this flag has been proudly borne. I present it to my native land, and I trust that the old country will not refuse this symbol of a new life from one of her youngest children. I need not explain its meaning. The quick and passionate intellect of the generation now springing into arms will catch it at a glance. The white in the centre signifies a lasting truce between the "orange" and the "green" and I trust that beneath its folds, the hands of the Irish Protestant and the Irish Catholic may be clasped in generous and heroic brotherhood. Should this flag be destined to fan the flames of war, let England behold once more, upon that white centre, the Red Hand that struck her down from the hills of Ulster and I pray that Heaven may bless the vengeance it is sure to kindle. _ (The Red Hand was removed, but it is the symbol of Ulster).

The Young Irelander/Irish Confederation attempted to overthrow British rule in the unsuccessful Irish uprising in July 1848. Meagher was captured and sentenced to death by hanging and to be drawn and quartered. His sentence was commuted to 'transportation' to the British penal colony in Van Diemen's Land (now Tasmania/Australia) for a life in exile. Needless to say, he escaped and by late spring 1852 he'd arrived in New York City, associated himself with the New York Irish militia units, and the rest is well known in the history of the Irish Brigade. As an aside, Thomas M. Halpin was a founding member of the Irish Confederation. During the uprising, he was arrested and imprisoned first in Dublin and later in Belfast. After release, he made his way to New York where he established the 'Irish Alliance,' one of many Irish expat organizations.

Religious Freedom March: On Sunday, January 13, Father Timothy Harris, AOH State Chaplain joined Meagher Division Brothers O'Brien, O'Connor, O'Donnell, McKenna, Geary, Hogan, Logan, Halpin, the Buttimer family, the Hocter family, and the Lyons family in marching from the Fredericksburg train station to the

religious freedom monument. AOH Brother Father Don Rooney gave the benediction and we noticed Father John Zeigler there as well. We were second in the order of march, and although we'd hoped for a more division robust participation, we did okay.



A special thanks to William and Daniel Lyons (two of Tommy and Sue's boys). They carried the division banner along the entire route (more than a mile) and then stood tall during several lengthy speeches at the Freedom of Religion Monument.

Committee Reports:

a. ***Help and Hope for Meaningful Employment Program:*** Program chairman, Chuck Payne, organized the first meeting of program volunteers at St Patrick Church on January 11th. Tommy Lyons, Jim O'Donnell, Bud Logan, Bill Halpin, Hugh Mulloy and Sandy Corvin (Hugh/Sandy are not AOH members) attended. Chuck suggested we all read *'Knock'em Dead 2013'* by Martin Yates as a primer for things to come. Our other volunteers, Bob McDevitt, Deacon John Hubbarth and Gene McKenna were unable to attend. An announcement has appeared in most parish bulletins for the past three weeks and the program is on track to kick-off at 7 PM, February 5th in the St. Patrick parish hall.

b. ***Trip for Two to Ireland Raffle:*** Standing Committee Chair Jim O'Donnell will manage the raffle this year. He outlined raffle objectives and sent them to all Brothers in a January 18th email. The minimum goals are very *'doable'* for every

brother (and easy to exceed). We'll need cooperation for ticket sales at the Irish Festival following the St Patrick Day Parade (March 16), after Mass sales at our four parishes (dates TBD), and at the Lake of the Woods Fourth of July festival (date TBD).

c. ***Halfway to St Patrick Day Celebration:*** Brother Jim McMorrow volunteered to chair a committee for our second annual event. The date is tentatively set for September 14, 2013.

d. ***Charities Committee:*** Brother Hugh O'Brien reported the committee met on January 12. The Committee noted that no new organizations approached them during 2012. Therefore, they recommended we maintain current levels of support to parish work camps, Catholic education, and two pro-life organizations. They further recommended a brother-parishioner from St Matthew Parish be asked to join the committee.

Good and Welfare:

a. ***Hibernian of the Year:*** A committee appointed by AOH State President Chuck Curran selected our own Brother Bud Logan as **Virginia Hibernian of the Year for 2012.**



VAAOH VP Bruce Denault Presents the Award at the State Meeting 19 Jan

Bud was selected among submissions solicited from 15 Virginia divisions. His citation reads in part:

‘Bud is the personification of Hibernian Zeal. He is always cheerfully available whenever and wherever there is a Division need for presence or support. He volunteers at every opportunity to support Division public outreach, fund raising efforts, and charities. Due to his enthusiastic response to need and his willingness to share great ideas, Bud frequently becomes the catalyst for a larger brotherhood of volunteers that facilitates success. He willingly spends long hours outside after Masses, frequently in inclement weather, to support Division recruitment objectives at the parishes that make up our membership. He is the prime reason for the success the Division enjoyed in our 2012 Trip for Two to Ireland – leading all Division brothers in raffle ticket sales. As a result, he is also responsible for enabling the division to increase support for our important charitable works including pro-life, Catholic education and various parish endeavors. This year, the Division hosted a major social event celebrating Halfway to St Patrick Day. Our goal was simple: introduced the community to AOH, Irish traditions, and Irish culture! Bud Logan was the primary reason for the overwhelming success we enjoyed, encouraging attendance and selling tickets. Since joining the Division, Bud has participated in every annual St Patrick Day Parade and Irish Festival and in every commemoration of the Irish Brigade’s losses in the 1862 Battle of Fredericksburg. He epitomizes Christian Charity by seeking ways to help others. For example, seeing a need for help, Bud transports an elderly neighbor to Sunday Mass and ferries her to the hospital for visits with her hospitalized husband. He is always prepared to give his time and knowledge to further AOH goals. For example, in our new initiative – Help & Hope for Meaningful Employment – Bud was among the first to volunteer his unique business experience to the program. Bud has attended every monthly meeting (perfect attendance record), always helps to set up for the meeting, and is among the last to leave, assisting in clean up and securing the facility. Bud Logan represents the highest caliber of Hibernian tradition, values and zeal. He is a patriot, an exceptional citizen, an exceptional family man (just celebrated his 50th wedding anniversary), a devout Catholic, and lives our motto of Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity.

b. **Major Degree:** Five of our brothers received the Order’s Major Degree on Sunday, January 20th. The Brian Boru Degree Team did a masterful job at the St Mary Lyceum in Alexandria.



Photo by Mulhern and a U/I associate

Congratulations are in order for Tommy Lyons, Jim McMorrow, Dan Mulhern, Chuck Payne, and Bob Stevens. Joe Daley, Bud Logan, Gene McKenna, and I attended as observers. A legendary AOH Brother (also on the Degree Team), Pat Troy, commented:

`You're not a true Hibernian until you've received the
Major Degree of our Order. _

The next opportunity to receive the Major Degree will be during the Virginia State Convention scheduled for 19-21 July 2013.

c. ***Gourmet Dining:*** The division voted to continue Jim McMorrow's innovative social hour enhancements. Our January business meeting was followed by Jim's perfect brats w/caramelized onions; he promises meatball subs in February (yes, it is Lent, but not a Friday). This makes for an enjoyable and lively social hour. As always, we thank Joe O'Connor for lugging in the beverages (again!).

d. ***The Gathering Ireland 2013:*** Check out <http://www.thegatheringdublin.com/>

Prayer List: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Father Bob Brown, OSF, former pastor at St John Neumann Parish (Reston) and AOH member and chaplain for the Colonel Thomas J. Cunningham Division. Father Brown died on December 27, 2012 - may perpetual light shine upon him and may he rest in peace.

Coming Events:

- **19 February: 7:30PM** regular monthly meeting
- **Date TBD:** The AOH annual Gaelic Mass
- **14 March:** 5 PM Annual Family Irish Dinner at Holy Cross Academy - *need volunteers*
- **16 March:** Annual St Patrick Day Parade at the Blue and Grey brewery and 5th annual Trip for Two to Ireland raffle kickoff - *need 100% participation with families*
- **17 March:** 8AM-2PM Irish breakfast, St Mary Parish Life Center *need volunteers*
- **16-18 August 2013:** The **Biennial State convention** will be sponsored by the LTC Dowd Division (Woodbridge) at the Fredericksburg Hospitality House. Given the location there is little doubt we will be asked to help.
- **14 September:** Second Annual Halfway to St Patrick Day Celebration
- **21 September:** Trip for Two to Ireland raffle drawing
- **4 October:** 4-7:30PM Annual St Mary Fall Festival

General Meagher Division Attire: As in most organizations, we have AOH specific attire. In a perfect world every brother would have these articles of clothing.

- For semi-formal/formal occasions, the AOH `uniform_ is green sport coat, tri-color sash, white shirt, Irish theme tie, black trousers and ball cap. These occasions include AOH Masses, funerals, AOH dinners, State and National conventions, all parades, and other public events. Clearly the AOH tri-color sash represents the national flag of Ireland and should be worn over the right shoulder crossing to the left hip (see photo)



- At informal events (i.e. Division outings (ball games, picnics, meetings, etc.) the division logo polo or sweatshirts (optional ball cap) are appropriate. Many have already ordered the division polo and sweat shirts and the ball cap.

Brothers procure their own green jackets and sashes. I'll take orders for Division logo polo shirts, sweatshirts and ball caps.

Division Logo Items: long and short sleeve polo shirts, sweat shirts, and ball caps:

- Long sleeve polo: \$22.75
- Short sleeve polo: \$19.75
- Sweat shirt: \$21.25
- Ball Cap: \$14.00

Green Jacket: Men's Wearhouse has apparently dropped the ball. I've found another vendor for Kelly green jackets. Jim McMorrow already has one, so check his out. http://blazerdepot.com/pages/mens_blazer/augustagreenblazer.html When you call ask for Rivkah; tell her you're with AOH and she'll waive the \$5.00 small order fee. Imported blazers size 48 and smaller are \$59.00 plus \$12.50 shipping/handling. Made in the USA blazers start at \$110.00. Prices increase with size.

AOH Sash: Tri-color AOH sashes are available from:

- LAOH Sister Patricia Ankrom. For more information, email Patricia at traceysbydesign@aol.com
- Ancient Order of Hibernians -- Trumbull County, Ohio <http://trumbull.aoh-laoh.com/STORE.html>
- D. & E. Morrissey. 1978 S.W. 17th Dr. Deerfield Beach, FL 33442. 954-426-3514. <http://www.hibernians-shamrock.com/donations.html>

In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

Bill Halpin
 President, General Thomas F. Meagher Division
 Ancient Order of Hibernians in America
 540.972.5903 (home)
 202.213.5625 (cell)

